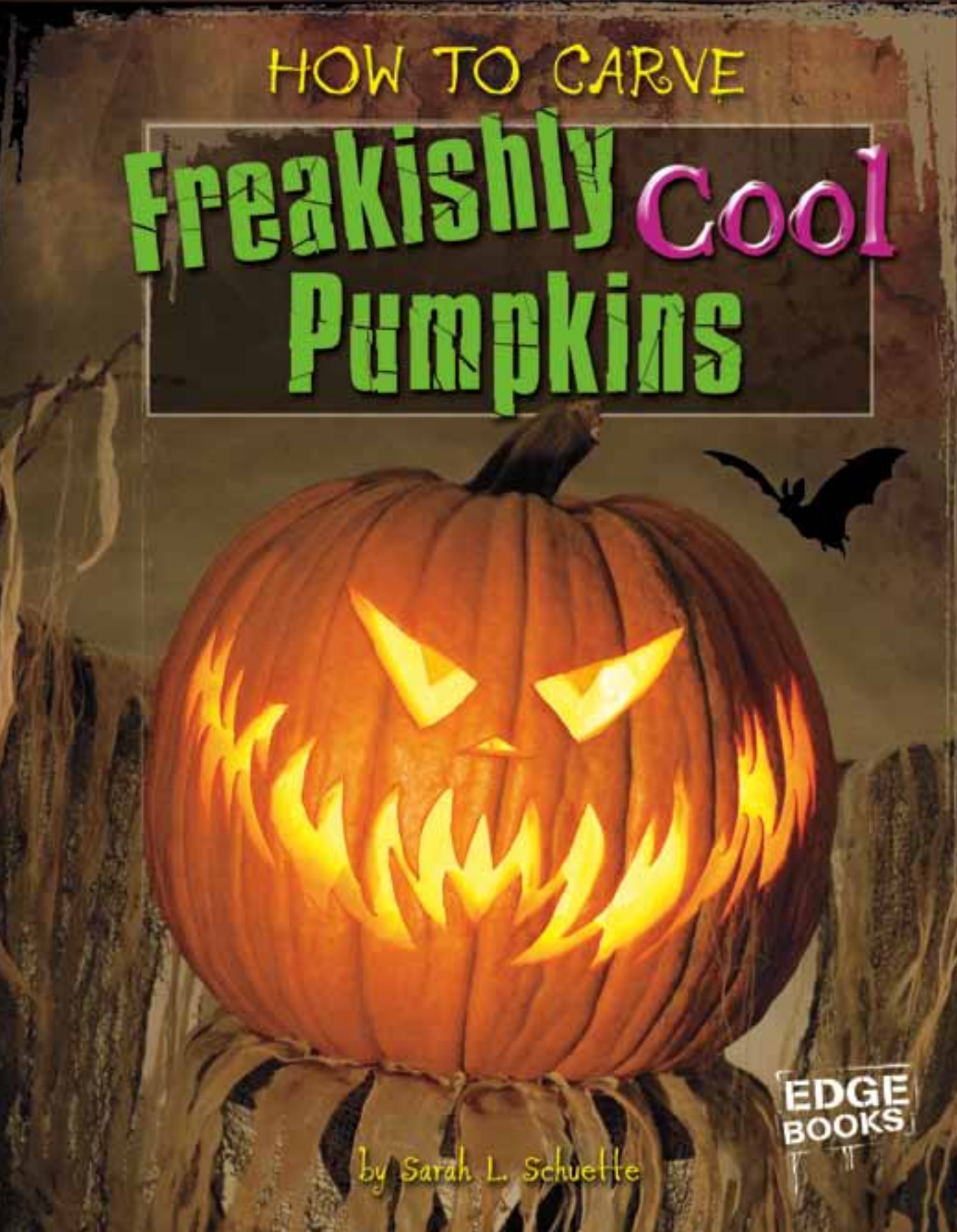
VISIT…

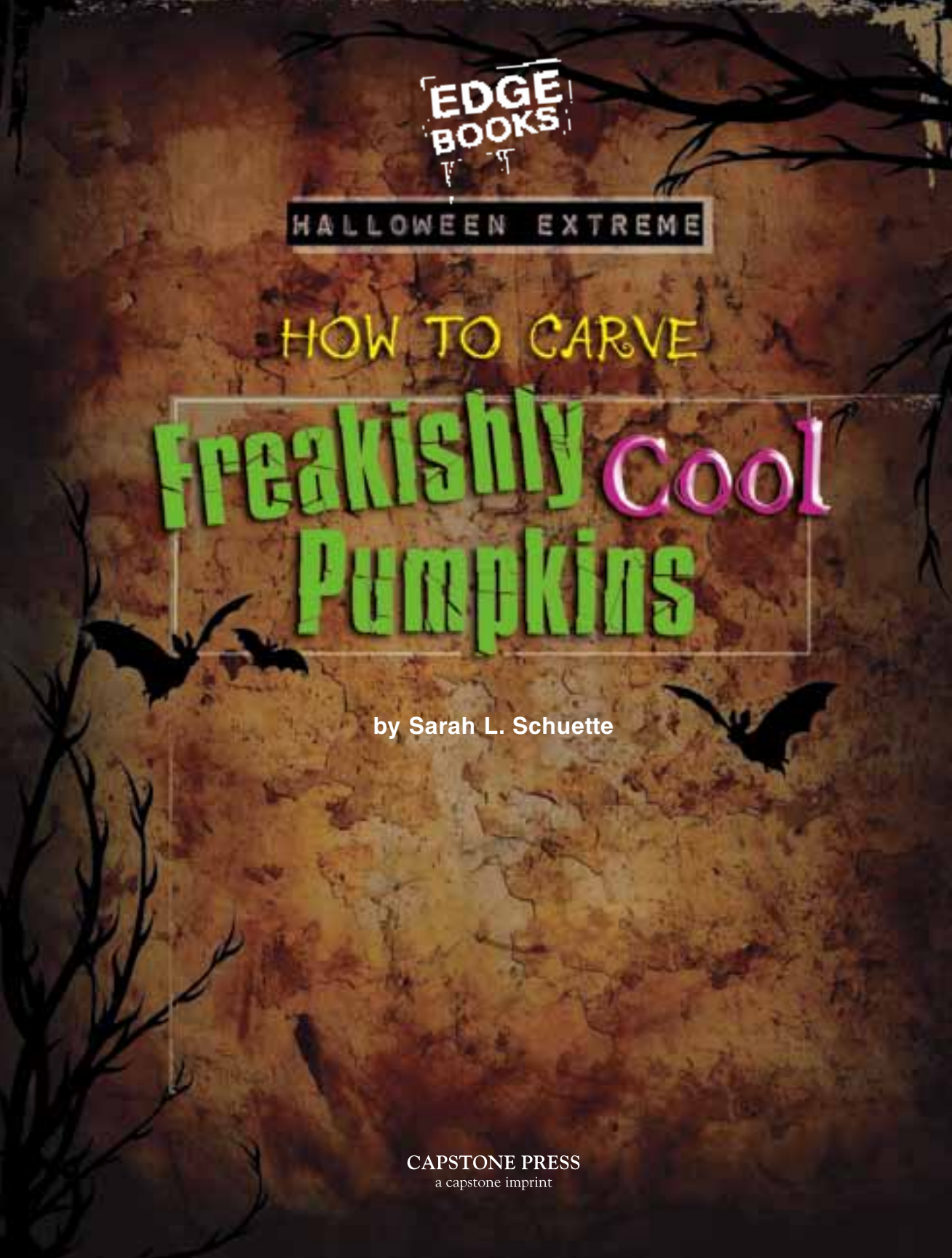
HOW TO CARVE

Freakishly Cool Pumpkins



by Sarah L. Schuette

EDGE BOOKS


EDGE BOOKS
HALLOWEEN EXTREME
HOW TO CARVE
Freakishly Cool Pumpkins
by Sarah L. Schuette
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Introduction

Nothing screams Halloween like a wicked-looking jack-o'-lantern. Do you admire other people's pumpkins and wish you could carve your own? Then you've come to the right place!

Anyone can create a simple Halloween pumpkin. But why stop there? Check out the extreme pumpkins featured in this book. Can you make your pumpkin look just like the pictures? Or do they inspire you to create your own designs? Once you get familiar with the basics of carving a pumpkin, there will be no stopping your carving genius. Visit your local pumpkin patch, have an adult buy a few pumpkins, and let's get started.

Tools

glue gun

scraping tool

saw tool

poking tool

SAFETY FIRST

Always put safety first when carving pumpkins. Have an adult buy a pumpkin carving kit at a craft store or grocery store. These kits are designed with safety in mind. Ask an adult to help when using dangerous tools like the saw and glue gun.

Carving Basics

START AT THE TOP

1

Step 1: Cover your carving space with newspaper or use a picnic table outside.

2

Step 2: You'll need an opening for most pumpkins. Using a marker, draw a circle around the stem or at the bottom of the pumpkin. Make it big enough so you can fit your hand inside.

3

Step 3: Ask an adult to help you cut around the line. Tip the saw tool at a 45-degree angle. This will keep your lid from falling inside the pumpkin. Set the lid aside.

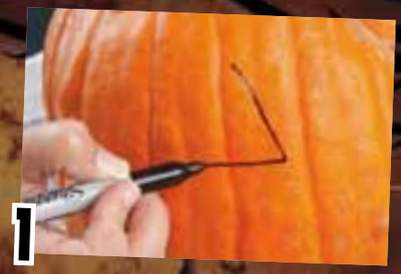
4

Step 4: Using your hands or scraping tool, clean out all the seeds and strings inside. An ice cream scoop works as well.

5

Step 5: Scrape the inside walls of the pumpkin clean.

GET CARVING


1

Step 1: You can use a premade pattern or draw your own on tracing paper. If you want, you can also draw directly on the pumpkin.

2

Step 2: If using a pattern, tape it to your pumpkin.

3

Step 3: Using the poking tool, poke holes around the lines of your pattern. Don't go all the way through the pumpkin. Just poke far enough so you can see the holes clearly.

4

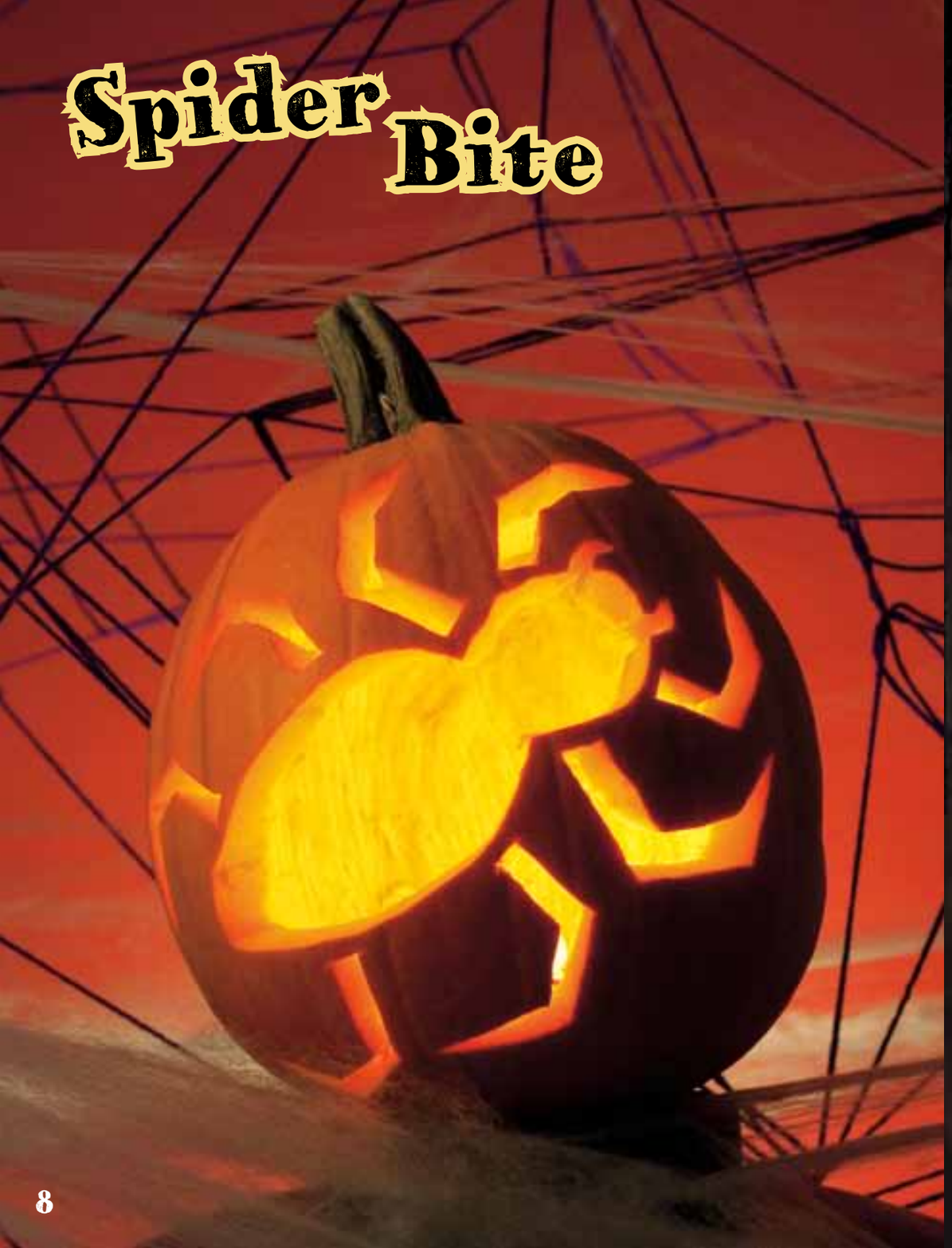
Step 4: Ask an adult to help you carve from dot to dot using the saw tool. It works best to start from the center and work out. Carve the smallest areas first.

5

Step 5: Pull out the cut pieces with your fingers.

TIP: Light your pumpkins with battery-operated flameless candles. They're safer and easier to use than wax candles.

Spider Bite



What do black widows, tarantulas, and crab spiders all have in common? They give people the creeps! Get ready to hear some screams when your friends come face-to-face with this eight-legged monster.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 medium pumpkin
- permanent marker
- fake spiderwebs or cotton balls
- scissors
- black yarn
- masking tape

Step 1: Gut a medium pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a permanent marker to draw a spider body and eight legs. Make sure the legs aren't connected to the body.

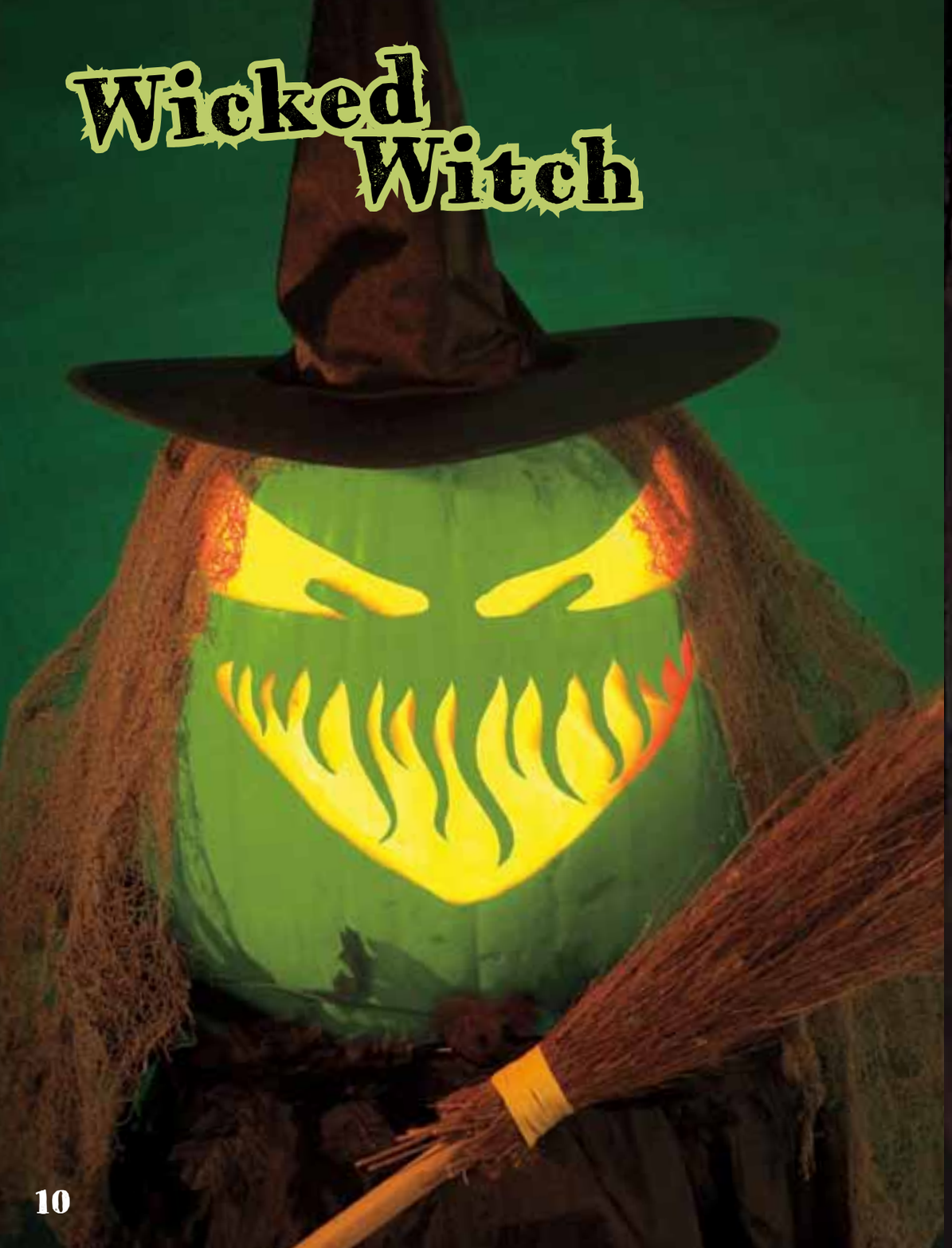
Step 3: Cut out the body and legs with the saw tool.

Step 4: Pull apart some fake spiderwebs or cotton balls. Place under the pumpkin.

Step 5: Use a scissors to cut several long pieces of black yarn. Stretch the pieces behind the pumpkin to look like a giant web. Tie or tape the ends of the pieces to a nearby wall, doorframe, railing, bush, or other object.

TIP: To make your pumpkin even more extreme, twist a black pom-pom and a few black chenille stems together to make a spider. Create a whole army of spiders to set around the pumpkin.

Wicked Witch



Stories say that there are both good and bad witches. But on Halloween, it's good to be bad! Carve a wicked witch and leave her on your doorstep. Add a witch's hat and a broomstick to make her even more frightening.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 large pumpkin
- permanent marker
- paintbrush
- green acrylic paint
- witch's hat
- broomstick

Step 1: Gut a large pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a permanent marker to draw wedge shapes for the eyes, leaving notches for the eyeballs. Then draw a large, sharp-edged mouth.

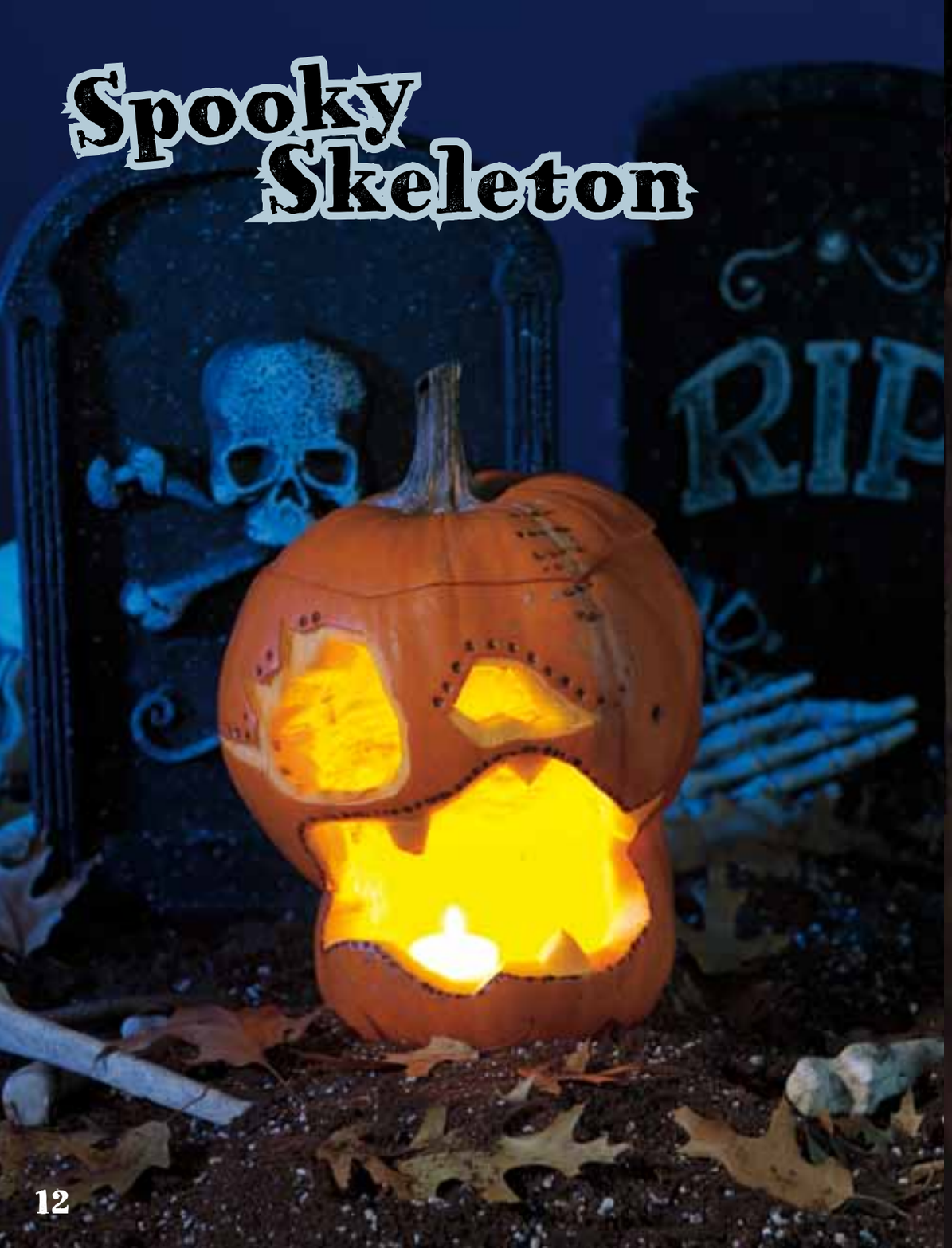
Step 3: Cut out the eyes and mouth with the saw tool. Be sure to leave the eyeball notches attached to the pumpkin.

Step 4: Paint the outside of the pumpkin green. Let dry.

Step 5: Add a witch's hat and broomstick, and you have a witch pumpkin!

TIP: Insert some green thumbtacks into the pumpkin to look like warts.

Spooky Skeleton



Search the pumpkin patch for an odd-shaped pumpkin. Turn its strange lumps and bumps into a bone-rattling skull.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 odd-shaped pumpkin
- permanent marker
- scraping tool

Step 1: Gut an odd-shaped pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a permanent marker to draw two different sized eyes and a large, crooked mouth with teeth.

Step 3: Cut out the eyes and mouth with the saw tool.

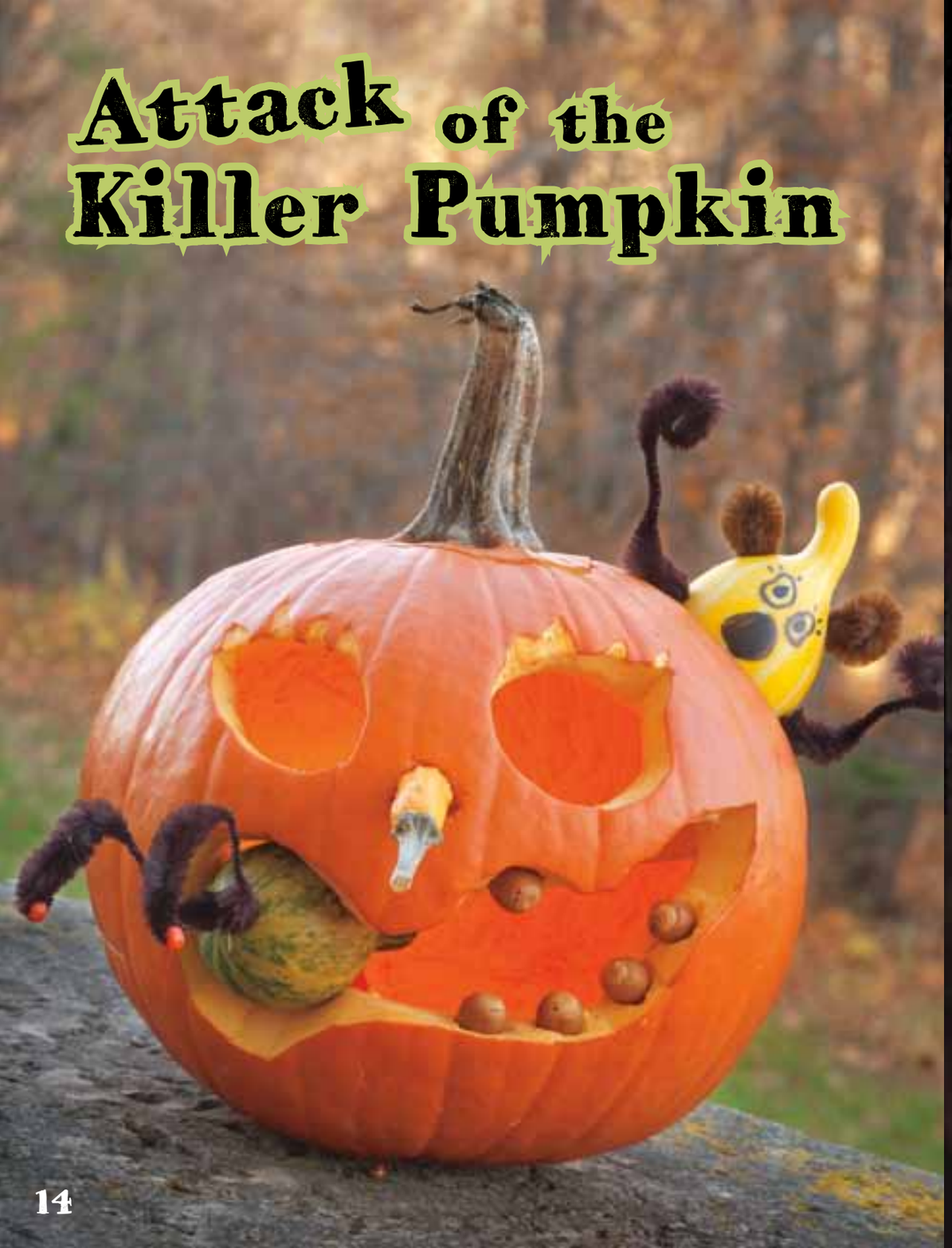
Step 4: Scrape the orange skin off the front of the teeth with the scraping tool.

Step 5: Draw dots above the eyes and around the mouth.

TIP: Apply a thin layer of **petroleum jelly** to the areas where you scraped off the pumpkin's skin. The jelly will stop those areas from turning brown. You can also apply jelly to the inside wall of the pumpkin.

petroleum jelly—a clear jelly used as a lubricant or an ointment

Attack of the Killer Pumpkin



What do acorns look like? Pumpkin teeth! Collect some acorns, and create your own mini monster.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 large pumpkin
- permanent marker
- 2 small gourds
- 1 medium gourd with long neck
- 5 acorns
- 6 chenille stems
- 2 orange pony beads

gourd—a small fruit with a shape similar to that of a squash or pumpkin

Step 1: Gut a large pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a permanent marker to draw eyes, a nose, and a large mouth on the pumpkin. Make sure one end of the mouth is wide enough to hold a small gourd.

Step 3: Cut out the eyes, nose, and mouth with the saw tool.

Step 4: Cut off the neck of the medium gourd. Place the neck in the pumpkin's nose hole.

Step 5: Cut five small holes in one side of the pumpkin's mouth. Place acorns in the holes.

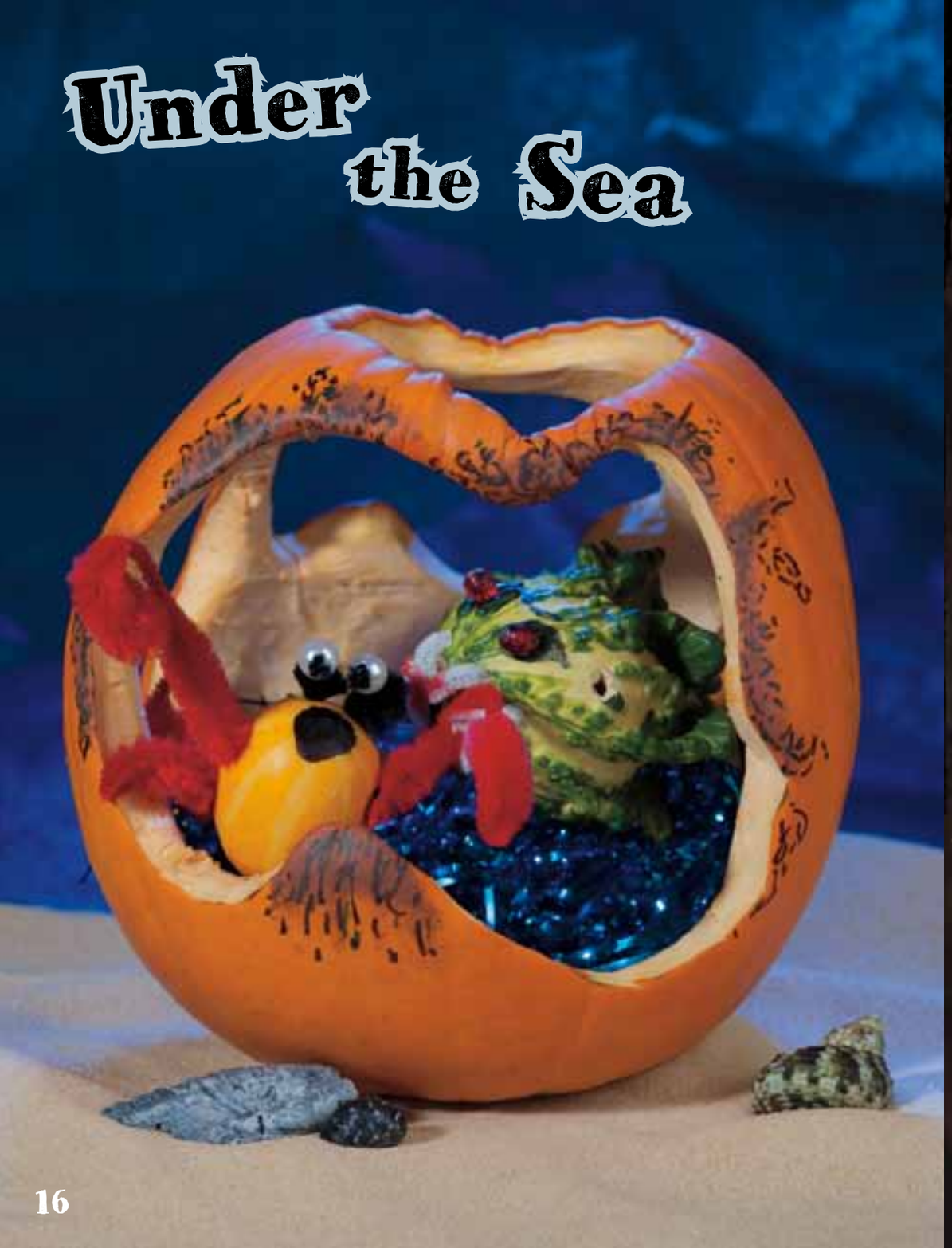
Step 6: Insert two chenille stems into the bottom of a small gourd. Attach a pony bead to the end of each stem. Place the gourd in the pumpkin's mouth. The chenille stem legs should stick out of the mouth.

Step 7: Cut a hole in the back of the pumpkin near the top. The hole should be big enough to fit the other small gourd.

Step 8: Insert four chenille stems into the top and sides of the other small gourd. Draw a face on the gourd. Place the gourd in the hole you carved at the top of the pumpkin.

TIP: You can find acorns under adult oak trees in fall. If you can't find acorns, use carrot pieces, candy, or broken crackers for the teeth.

Under the Sea



Do ocean animals celebrate Halloween? If they did, they'd probably carve a pumpkin like this! Use gourds and markers to create a howling Halloween party under the sea.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 medium pumpkin
- blue permanent marker
- chenille stems
- 2 or 3 gourds
- glass or pearl beads
- stick pins

Step 1: Gut a medium pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a blue permanent marker to draw three or four wave shapes on the pumpkin.

Step 3: Cut out the wave shapes with the saw tool.

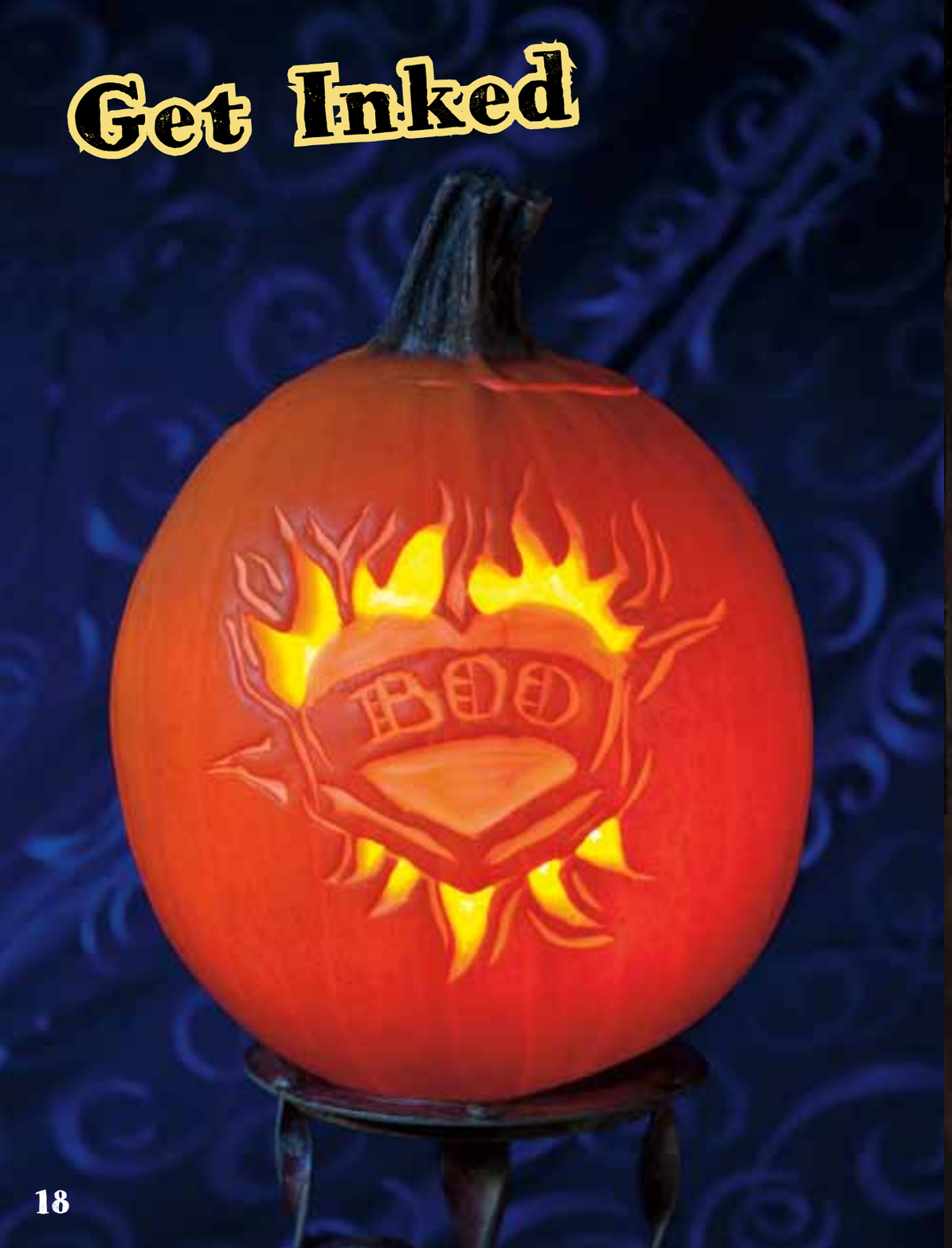
Step 4: Draw blue swirls around the outside edges of the wave shapes.

Step 5: Insert chenille stems in the gourds to look like arms or claws.

Step 6: Attach beads to the gourds with stick pins to look like eyes. Place your gourd animals inside the pumpkin.

TIP: Lighter-colored pumpkins are softer and easier to carve than dark pumpkins. But they don't last as long as dark pumpkins. If you choose a dark pumpkin, scrape off more of the inside wall. A thinner wall will be easier to carve.

Get Inked



Do you like to draw? A pumpkin is the perfect canvas! Try carving freaky faces, spooky sayings, or scary objects. For this project, give your pumpkin a wicked-looking "tattoo."

What You Need:

- **saw tool**
- **1 small pumpkin**
- **pencil**
- **tracing paper**
- **clear tape**
- **poking tool**
- **scraping tool**

Step 1: Gut a small pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a pencil to copy the design in the photo on page 18 onto a piece of tracing paper.

Step 3: Tape your design to the pumpkin. Poke out the design with the poking tool.

Step 4: Cut out the flame shapes with the saw tool.

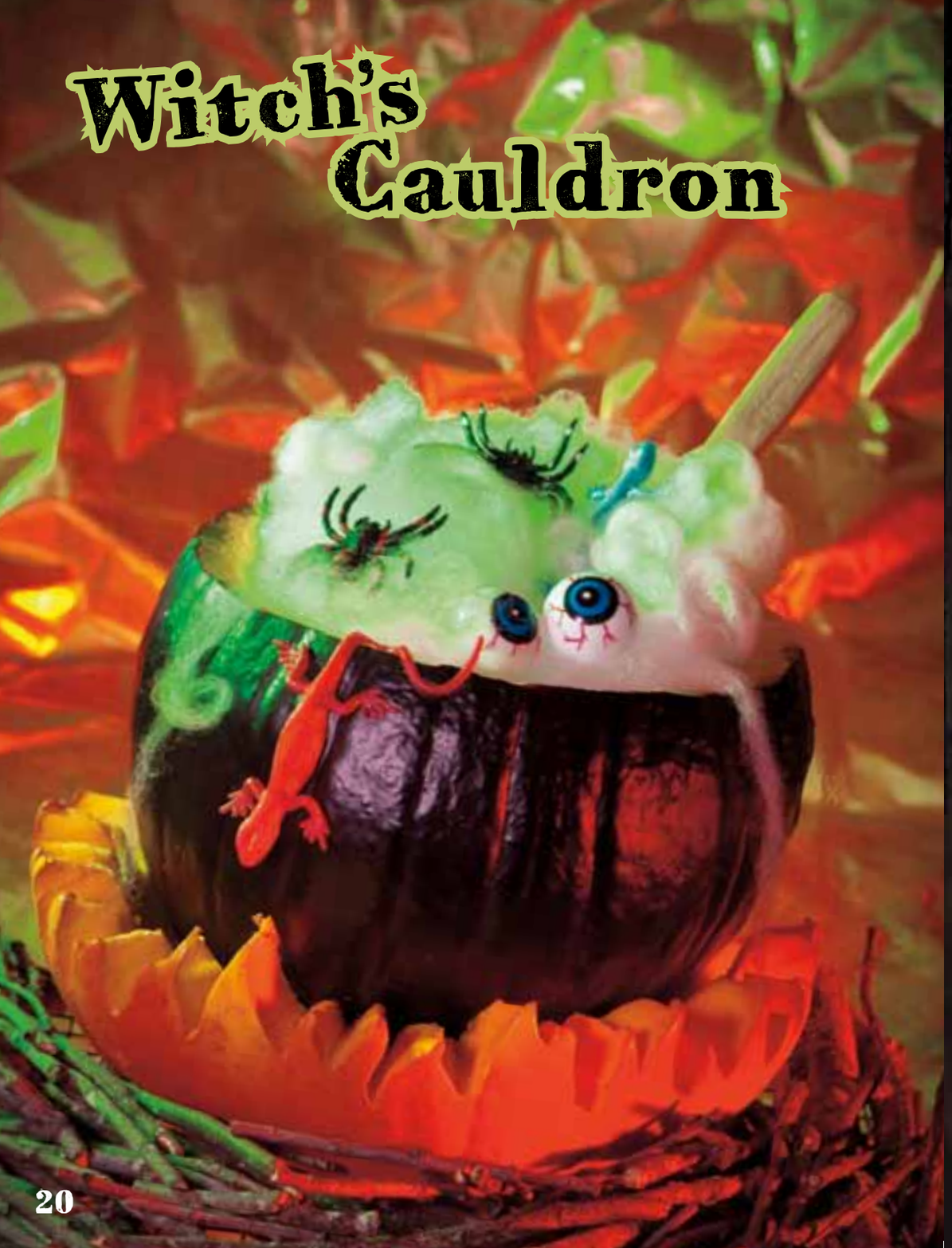
Step 5: Use the scraping tool to scrape off the top and bottom of the heart shape. Leave a banner in the middle of the heart.

Step 6: Use the scraping tool to carve the word "Boo" on the banner.

Step 7: Use the scraping tool to carve flame shapes around the flames you cut out.

TIP: Did you accidentally cut out the wrong part of your pumpkin? Use toothpicks to reattach it to the pumpkin.

Witch's Cauldron



Anyone can serve Halloween candy in a plastic bucket. But if you're feeling witchy, why not carve your own cauldron? Fill this pumpkin with your favorite candy, and cackle as your friends dig in.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 large pumpkin
- 1 small pumpkin
- paintbrush
- acrylic paints
- permanent marker
- candy
- fake spiderwebs

Step 1: Gut a large pumpkin and a small pumpkin.

Step 2: Paint the smaller pumpkin black. Let dry.

Step 3: Use a permanent marker to draw flame shapes around the bottom of the larger pumpkin.

Step 4: Cut out the flame pattern with the saw tool.

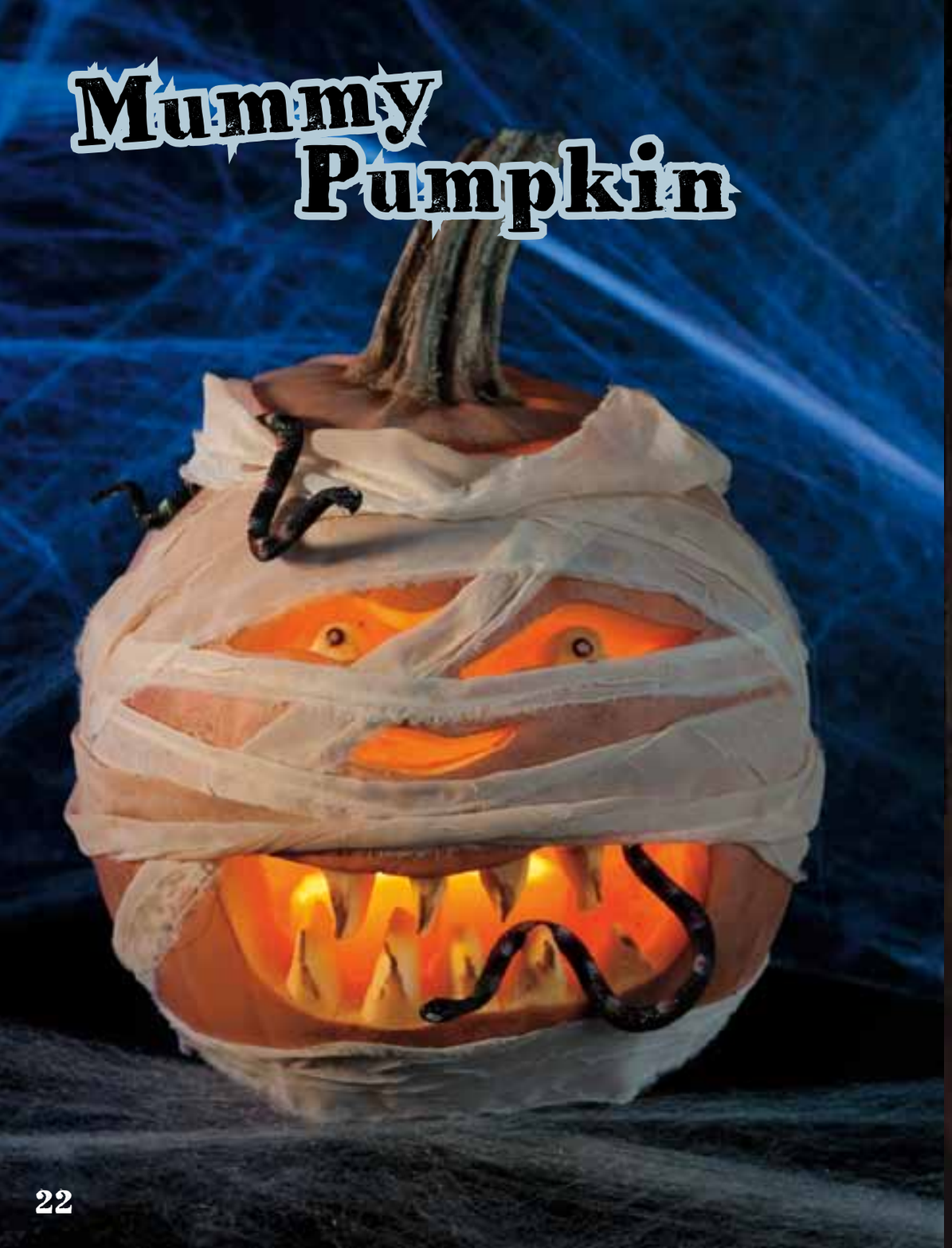
Step 5: Paint the edge of the flames yellow. Let dry.

Step 6: Set the black cauldron into the flames. Fill with candy and fake spiderwebs.

TIP: Wash the pumpkin's seeds, and coat them with salt and vegetable oil. Spread the seeds on a cookie sheet. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes at 300° Fahrenheit. Serve the seeds in the cauldron instead of candy.

cauldron—a large kettle, often associated with witches' brews

Mummy Pumpkin



Mummies are dead bodies that have been preserved and wrapped in cloth. In some scary movies, they return from the dead. Use old curtains or sheets to turn a regular pumpkin into a creature from beyond the grave.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 small pumpkin
- permanent marker
- scraping tool
- white or cream curtain or sheet, torn into strips
- glue gun and hot glue
- brown acrylic paint
- water
- small sponge brush
- rubber snakes

Step 1: Gut a small pumpkin.

Step 2: Use a permanent marker to draw eyes, leaving notches for the eyeballs. Draw a nose and a mouth with sharp teeth.

Step 3: Cut out the eyes, nose, and mouth with the saw tool. Be sure to leave the eyeballs attached to the pumpkin.

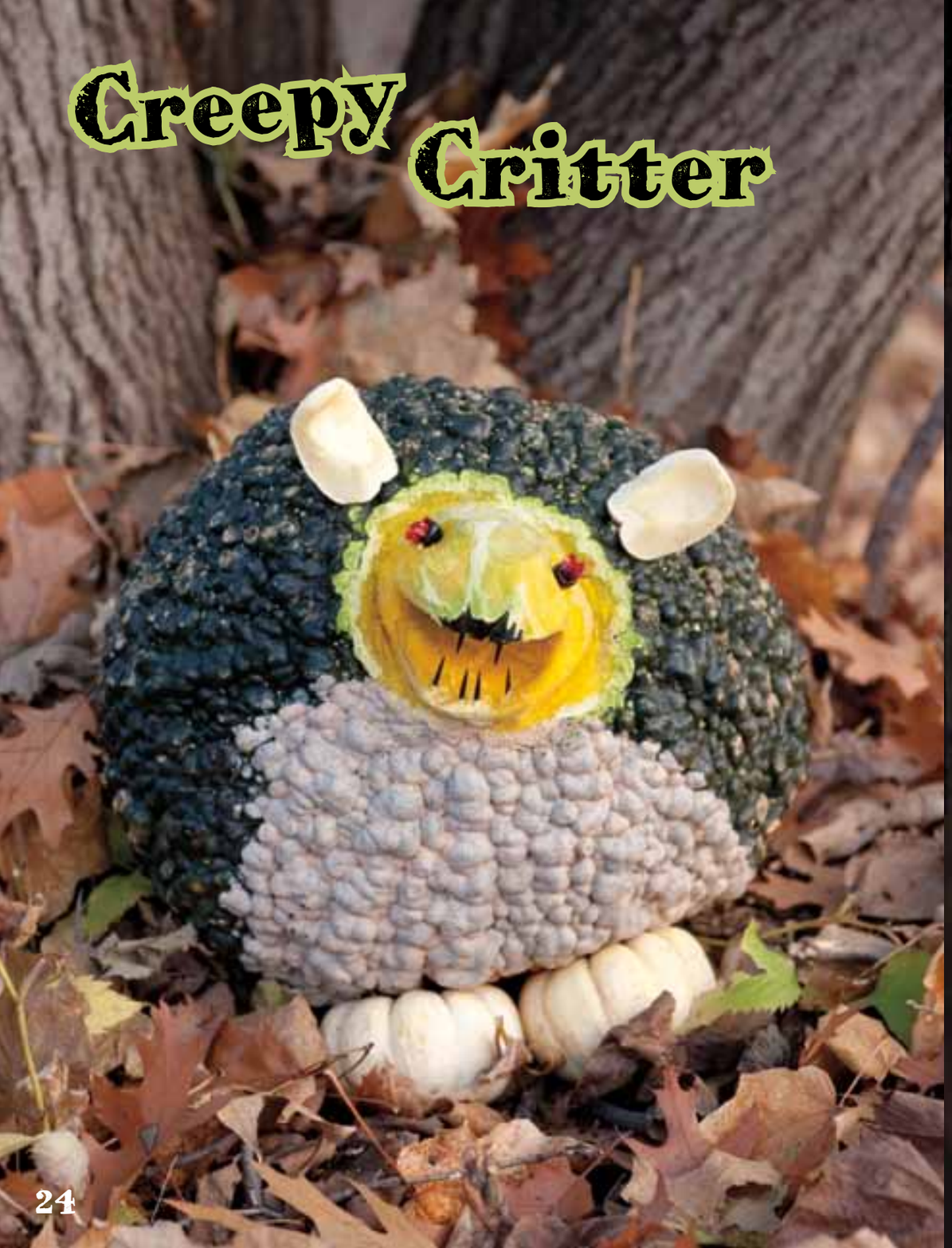
Step 4: Scrape away the orange skin from the front of the teeth and eyeballs.

Step 5: Wrap curtain strips around the pumpkin. Hot glue each strip into place.

Step 6: Mix a small amount of paint with a few drops of water. Dab the mixture onto the fabric strips with a sponge brush. Let dry.

Step 7: Darken the teeth with the leftover paint. Add a dot of paint to each eyeball. Place rubber snakes under the strips and in the mouth.

Creepy Critter



Hedgehogs hunt for food at night. Set this spiny animal gourd under a tree in your yard. It will be right at home once the sun goes down.

What You Need:

- 1 large bumpy black gourd
- scraping tool
- saw tool
- paintbrush
- acrylic paint
- wood toothpicks
- black marker
- 2 craft dowels
- 3 small white pumpkin gourds
- 2 plastic beads
- 2 plastic toothpicks

Step 1: Choose a round knob or bump on the gourd to be the face of your hedgehog. Scrape away the outer layer.

Step 2: Use the saw tool to carve an open mouth in the face.

Step 3: Paint the bottom of the gourd with white or cream acrylic paint. Let dry.

Step 4: Color a few toothpicks black with a marker. Let dry.

Step 5: Insert the toothpicks into the mouth to create teeth.

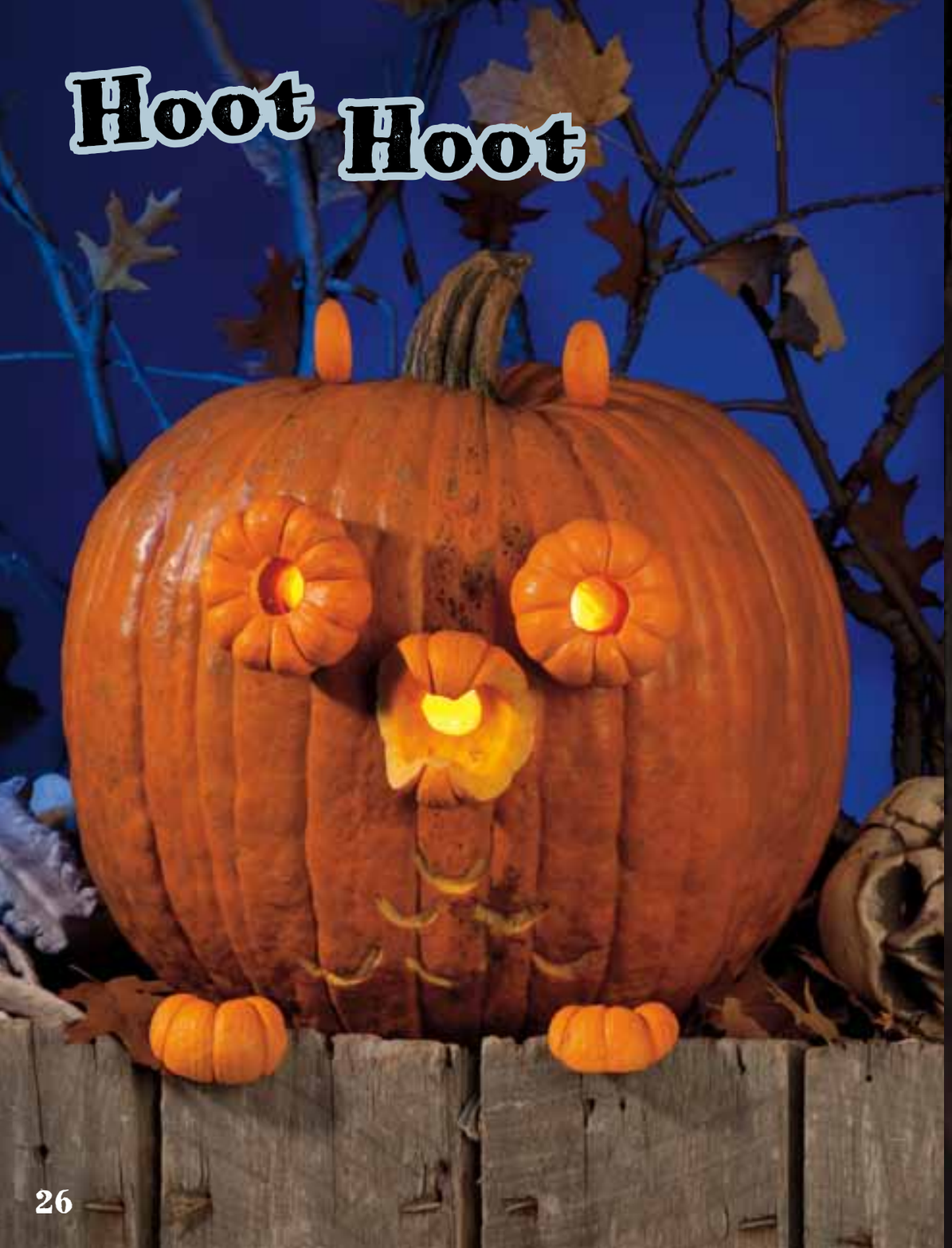
Step 6: To make the feet, insert a dowel into the tops of two white gourds. Attach the white gourds to the bottom of the large gourd with the dowels.

Step 7: To make the ears, cut two sections out of the remaining gourd and insert toothpicks. Attach the pieces to the top of the large gourd.

Step 8: Attach the plastic beads with the plastic toothpicks to make the eyes.

TIP: If your gourd or pumpkin starts to shrivel, soak it in cold water overnight. Be sure to dry it inside and out before you set it back outside.

Hoot Hoot



Some people believe the owl is a symbol of wisdom. Others see the owl as a sign that something terrible is about to happen. Whatever you believe, this pumpkin will be a hoot to carve!

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 extra-large pumpkin
- 4 small orange pumpkin gourds
- permanent marker
- toothpicks
- scraping tool

TIP: If the toothpicks aren't strong enough to hold the gourds to the pumpkin, add a bit of hot glue or super glue for support.

Step 1: Gut an extra-large pumpkin.

Step 2: Using the saw tool, cut a round hole straight through the center of three small pumpkin gourds. Use your fingers to clean out the insides.

Step 3: Cut off a piece from the left and right sides of one of the hollowed-out gourds. Set the small pieces aside.

Step 4: To make the eyes and nose, hold the gourds against the pumpkin. Stick a permanent marker through the holes to draw the eyes and nose on the pumpkin.

Step 5: Cut out the eyes and nose with the saw tool.

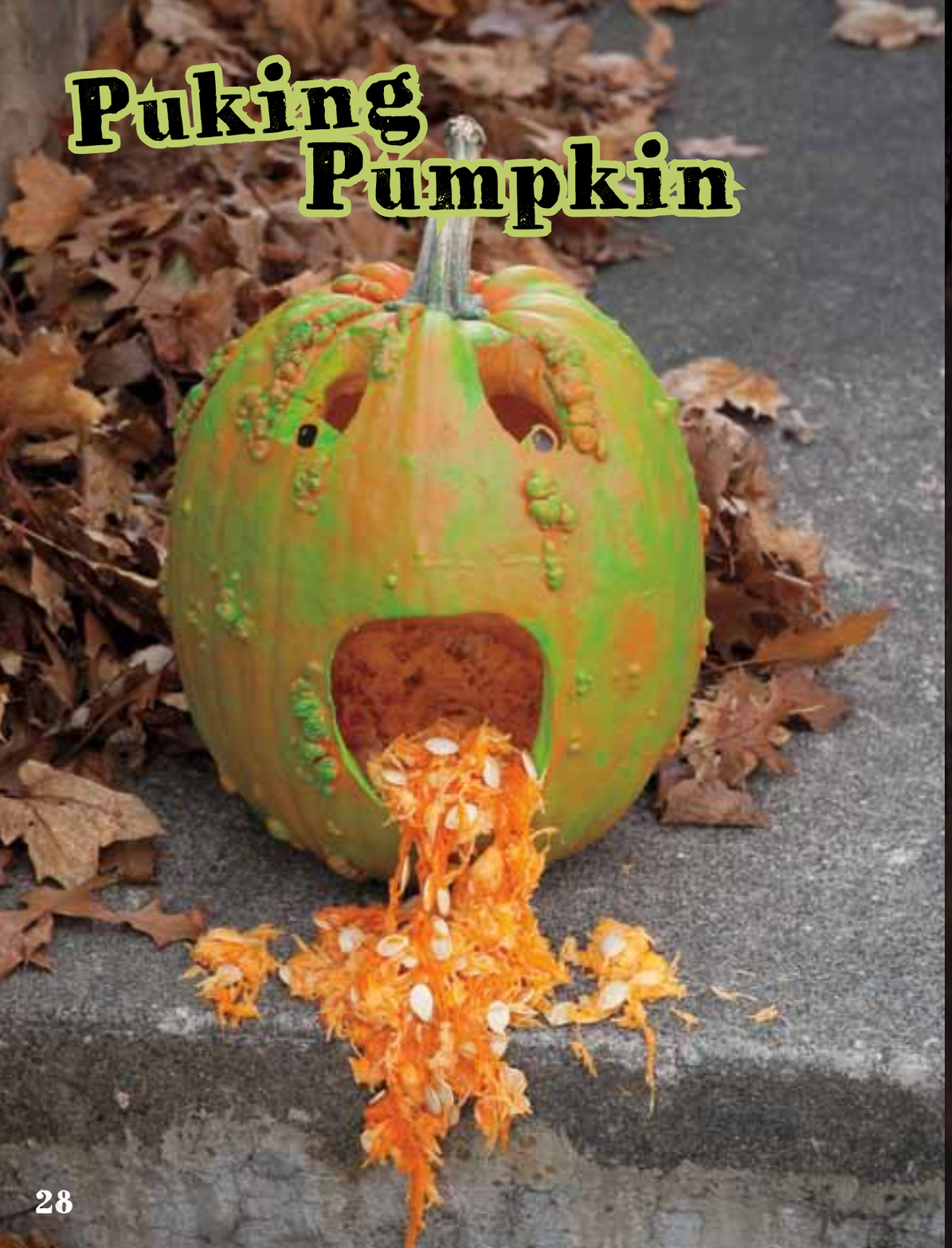
Step 6: Insert four toothpicks into the backs of each of the three gourds. Attach the gourds over the eyes and nose you carved in the pumpkin. Use the gourd with the missing sides for the nose. Be sure to line up the holes in the gourds with the holes in the pumpkin.

Step 7: Insert toothpicks into the bottoms of the small pieces you cut from the gourd. Attach on each side of the pumpkin's stem to create the owl's ears.

Step 8: Cut the remaining gourd in half. Place the pieces under the pumpkin to create the owl's feet.

Step 9: Use the scraping tool to create feather shapes under the owl's nose.

Puking Pumpkin



Do you like to gross out your friends? Carve a sick pumpkin that ate too much Halloween candy. Use the pumpkin's guts to create fake vomit. Don't be surprised if your friends turn a little green.

What You Need:

- saw tool
- 1 small pumpkin with bumps
- pumpkin guts
- permanent marker
- small sponge brush
- green acrylic paint

Step 1: Gut a small pumpkin. Set aside the pumpkin's guts.

Step 2: Use a permanent marker to draw eyes and a large, round mouth.

Step 3: Cut out the eyes and mouth with the saw tool.

Step 4: Sponge paint the pumpkin green. Let dry.

Step 5: Place the pumpkin's guts back inside the pumpkin.

Step 6: Set the pumpkin outside. Pull some of the guts out through the pumpkin's mouth.

TIP: Need more pumpkin puke? Use the guts from two or three pumpkins.

Glossary

cauldron (KAWL-druhn)—a large kettle, often associated with witches' brews

dowel (DOW-uhl)—a long, thin piece of wood

gourd (GORD)—a small fruit with a shape similar to that of a squash or pumpkin

hedgehog (HEJ-hog)—a spiny mammal that rolls itself into a ball when threatened

petroleum jelly (puh-TROH-lee-uhm JEL-ee)—a clear jelly often used as an ointment

Read More

Ipcizade, Catherine. *How to Make Frightening Halloween Decorations.* Halloween Extreme. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2011.

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Llimós, Anna. *Haunted House Adventure Crafts.* Fun Adventure Crafts. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2010.

Skillicorn, Helen. *Spooky Crafts.* Creative Crafts for Kids. New York: Gareth Stevens Pub., 2010.

Internet Sites

FactHound offers a safe, fun way to find Internet sites related to this book. All of the sites on FactHound have been researched by our staff.

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